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(Original Signature of Member)

118TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

H. R. _____

To direct the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to establish a pilot program to permit certain members of the Armed Forces to pre-enroll in the system of annual patient enrollment established and operated under section 1705 of title 38, United States Code.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Mrs. KIM of California introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on _____

A BILL

To direct the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to establish a pilot program to permit certain members of the Armed Forces to pre-enroll in the system of annual patient enrollment established and operated under section 1705 of title 38, United States Code.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4 This Act may be cited as the “Combat Veterans Pre-
5 Enrollment Act of 2024”.

1 **SEC. 2. PILOT PROGRAM FOR PRE-ENROLLMENT OF CER-**
2 **TAIN MEMBERS OF THE ARMED FORCES IN**
3 **SYSTEM OF ANNUAL PATIENT ENROLLMENT**
4 **OF THE DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AF-**
5 **FAIRS.**

6 (a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than October 1, 2026,
7 the Secretary of Veterans Affairs shall establish a pro-
8 gram to carry out, to the maximum extent practicable, all
9 activities necessary to permit a member of the Armed
10 Forces specified in subsection (b) to elect to enroll in the
11 system of annual patient enrollment established and oper-
12 ated under section 1705 of title 38, United States Code,
13 on the date of the separation of such member from active
14 military, naval, air, or space service.

15 (b) MEMBER OF THE ARMED FORCES SPECIFIED.—
16 A member of the Armed Forces specified in this subsection
17 is a member of the Armed Forces that the Secretary deter-
18 mines—

19 (1) is performing active military, naval, air, or
20 space service;

21 (2) would be eligible for enrollment in the sys-
22 tem of annual patient enrollment established and op-
23 erated under such section on the date of the separa-
24 tion of such member from such service; and

25 (3) is described in section 1710(e)(1)(D) of title
26 38, United States Code.

1 (c) PRE-ENROLLMENT MECHANISM.—

2 (1) IN GENERAL.—Under the program required
3 by subsection (a), the Secretary of Veterans Affairs,
4 in conjunction with the Secretary of Defense and the
5 Secretary of Homeland Security, shall establish a
6 mechanism to permit a member of the Armed Forces
7 specified in subsection (b) to elect to pre-enroll in
8 such system of annual patient enrollment, pursuant
9 to the program required by subsection (a), during
10 the 180-day period that precedes the date of the sep-
11 aration of such member from active military, naval,
12 air, or space service.

13 (2) BRIEFINGS ON MECHANISM.—Not later
14 than 180 days after the date of the enactment of
15 this Act, and annually thereafter for the duration of
16 the program required by subsection (a), the Depart-
17 ment of Veterans Affairs-Department of Defense
18 Joint Executive Committee established under section
19 320 of title 38, United States Code, shall submit to
20 the appropriate congressional committees a briefing
21 on efforts of the Secretary of Veterans Affairs and
22 the Secretary of Defense with respect to the imple-
23 mentation of the mechanism required by paragraph
24 (1) during the period covered by the briefing.

1 (d) REPORT ON PRE-ENROLLED MEMBERS.—Not
2 later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of
3 this Act, and annually thereafter for the duration of such
4 program, the Secretary shall submit to the appropriate
5 congressional committees a report that includes, with re-
6 spect to the fiscal year that precedes the period covered
7 by the report—

8 (1) the number of members of the Armed
9 Forces specified in subsection (b) who—

10 (A) elected to participate in such program
11 and who were subsequently—

12 (i) enrolled in the system of annual
13 patient enrollment established and oper-
14 ated under section 1705 of title 38, United
15 States Code; and

16 (ii) denied enrollment in such system;
17 and

18 (B) elected not to participate in such pro-
19 gram; and

20 (2) aggregated demographic information on
21 members of the Armed Forces described in para-
22 graph (1), including—

23 (A) age;

24 (B) ethnicity;

1 (C) duration of active military, naval, air,
2 or space service;

3 (D) grade; and

4 (E) Armed Force.

5 (e) TERMINATION DATE.—The authority of the Sec-
6 retary to carry out the program required by subsection
7 (a) shall terminate on the date that is three years after
8 the date of the enactment of this Act.

9 (f) GAO REPORT ON PROGRAM.—Not later than the
10 date that is two years after the date of the termination
11 of such authority, the Comptroller General of the United
12 States shall submit to the appropriate congressional com-
13 mittees a report that includes—

14 (1) an analysis of the effectiveness of the pro-
15 gram required by subsection (a) with respect to the
16 enrollment of members of the Armed Forces speci-
17 fied in subsection (b) in the system of annual pa-
18 tient enrollment established and operated under sec-
19 tion 1705 of title 38, United States Code; and

20 (2) recommendations of the Comptroller Gen-
21 eral, if any, with respect to methods to improve to
22 such program.

23 (g) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

1 (1) The term “active military, naval, air, or
2 space service” has the meaning given such term in
3 section 101 of title 38, United States Code.

4 (2) The term “appropriate congressional com-
5 mittees” means—

6 (A) the Committees on Veterans’ Affairs of
7 the House of Representatives and the Senate;
8 and

9 (B) the Committees on Armed Services of
10 the House of Representatives and the Senate.